

CLAIMS

Sub E17
Sub 2

1. A light weight low depth nestable tray for containers, said tray adapted to be nested with other trays when empty of the containers and stacked with other trays when loaded with the containers, said tray having a wall structure extending around the periphery of said tray for preventing the containers from tipping during transport, and a floor structure with a floor top surface, a floor bottom surface, and a plurality of container support areas on the floor top surface, the support areas having means for supporting containers spaced apart from the wall structure to prevent damage to the containers from excessive contact with the wall structure, wherein the improvements comprise:

a low depth wall structure comprising a plurality of columns arranged along the periphery of the floor structure, and a band having side and end portions spaced above the floor structure and connected to the floor structure by said columns, wherein said band is contoured downwardly to form a band corner portion that directly connects to the floor structure at each corner of said tray.

2. The tray of claim 1, wherein each said band corner portion is formed whereby one said side portion of said band is contoured downwardly and one said end portion is contoured downwardly so as to converge together.

3. The tray of claim 2, further comprising a rib on an exterior surface of each said band corner portion, and a nesting platform formed at a top edge of each said band corner portion to support the rib of an above-nested tray.

4. The tray of claim 1, wherein said band is contoured downwardly at an angle between 30° and 60°.

5. The tray of claim 1, wherein said band is also contoured downwardly along the side of said tray to form a band central portion that directly connects to the floor structure at the side of said tray.

6. A light weight low depth nestable tray for containers, said tray adapted to be nested with other trays when empty of the containers and stacked with other trays when loaded with the containers, said tray having a wall structure extending around the periphery of said tray for preventing the containers from tipping during transport, and a floor structure with a floor top surface, a floor bottom surface, and a plurality of container support areas on the floor top surface, the support areas having means for supporting containers spaced apart from the wall structure to prevent damage to the containers from excessive contact with the wall structure, wherein the improvements comprise:

a low depth wall structure comprising a plurality of columns arranged along the periphery of the floor structure, and a band having side and end portions spaced above the floor structure and connected to the floor structure by said columns, wherein said band is contoured downwardly along the side portions to form a band central portion that directly connects to the floor structure at the side portions of said tray.

7. The tray of claim 6, wherein said band central portion has a top edge to receive a mating bottom edge of a like tray nested thereabove.

8. The tray of claim 6, wherein said band is contoured downwardly at an angle between 30° and 60° to form said band central portion..